

IFRRO STATEMENT ON THE NEED TO MODIFY THE PUBLIC LENDING RIGHT REMUNERATION SYSTEM IN SPAIN

Resolution adopted by the IFRRO Annual General Meeting in Tokyo on 8 November 2017

The International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations (IFRRO) at its Annual Meeting in Tokyo, strongly urges the Spanish government to establish a coherent system for the management of Public Lending Right (PLR) in Spain. The current Spanish PLR remuneration system for authors, for the lending of their works in libraries is inefficient and unworkable. This inefficient system harms Spanish authors, and also authors from other countries, whose works are lent by Spanish libraries.

The Spanish government's initial implementation of PLR in Spain which exempted all of the library establishments covered by the exception from making payments led to widespread criticism of the Spanish government. The current PLR system is also flawed for the following reasons:

- the level of remuneration is merely symbolic, and does not fulfill the requirements of either European law or the case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union.
- a very large number of libraries are individually required to pay remuneration. This imposes an unnecessary and excessive cost on both rightsholders and to the libraries. The consequence is repeated nonpayment of remuneration.

It is for these reasons that IFRRO adopts the following resolutions, requesting the Spanish government:

- 1) to establish an administration system that reduces the cost of managing Public Lending Right to the minimum, and
- 2) to set a level of remuneration consistent with Spain's current situation and which meets European standards. IFRRO considers an appropriate level would be similar to that applying in other European countries.

AND

- 3) requests the European Commission to take action to enable authors to obtain fair remuneration for the public lending of their works in Spain.

About IFRRO

IFRRO has 146 members in 76 countries, representing the creative and publishing communities. The creative industries and the cultural sector are fundamental to the digital economy, and pivotal in sustaining national culture and cultural identity.